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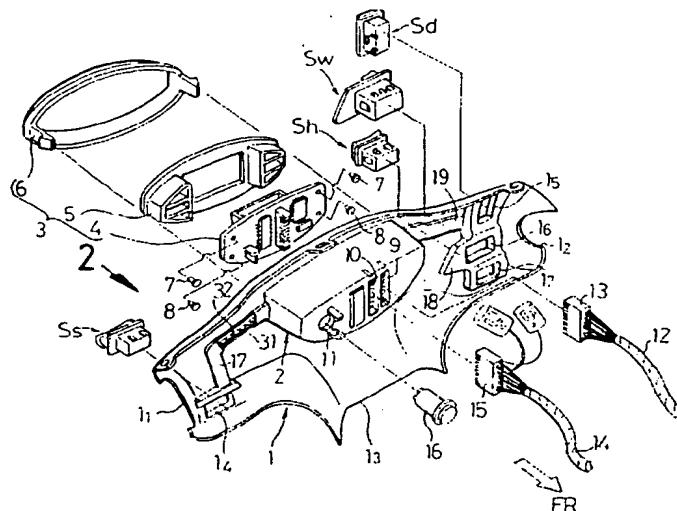
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(54) Switch mounting structure

(57) A switch housing 21 of a starter switch Ss is inserted into an opening 14 defined in a rear handlebar cover 1 in a motorcycle, and a locking claw projectingly provided on the switch housing 21 is locked in the opening 14 to fix the switch housing 21. When the switch housing 21 is inserted into the opening 14, a leaf spring-like terminal 24₂ of a stationary contact 24 exposed to a surface of the switch housing 21 comes into resilient

abutment against a terminal 31₂ of a bus bar 31 exposed to the opening 14 in the rear handlebar cover 1, thereby automatically completing the connection of the starter switch Ss and the bus bar 31 to each other. Thus, it is possible to simply and reliably perform the operation of mounting the starter switch Ss to the rear handlebar cover 1 and the operation of electrically connecting the starter switch Ss to the bus bar 31.

FIG. 1



Description

The present invention relates to a switch mounting structure in which a switch is mounted on a switch support and a terminal of the switch is electrically connected to a terminal of a conductor mounted on the switch support.

Such a switch mounting structure is known, for example, from Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 5-238463. In the above structure, a switch mounted to a handlebar of a motorcycle is comprised of a front body connected to a wire harness, and a rear body accommodated in a switch body, and the switch is mounted to the handlebar by fastening both of the bodies by a bolt with the handlebar interposed therebetween. The connection of the switch body and the wire harness is performed by coupling of a female connector provided on the front body and a male connector provided on the rear body.

However, the above known structure suffers from a problem that not only the operation for positioning the front and rear bodies on the handlebar while coupling the female and male connectors is troublesome, but also the number of working steps is further increased, because the fastening by bolt is required for coupling both the bodies to each other.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a switch mounting structure, wherein the operation of mounting the switch to the switch support and the operation of electrically connecting the switch to the conductor can be simply and reliably performed.

To achieve the above object, according to a first aspect and feature of the present invention, there is provided a switch mounting structure in which a switch is mounted on a switch support and a terminal of the switch is electrically connected to a terminal of a conductor mounted on the switch support, wherein a switch housing is inserted into an opening defined in the switch support and locked by a locking claw, and the terminal of the switch exposed to an outer surface of the switch housing is put into resilient abutment against the terminal of the conductor exposed to the opening.

With the above construction, it is possible to easily and reliably mount the switch housing to the switch support only by inserting the switch housing into the opening defined in the switch support and locking it by the locking claw. In addition, since the terminal of the switch exposed to an outer surface of the switch housing is put into resilient abutment against the terminal provided on the conductor and exposed to the opening, the switch and the conductor can be releasably connected to each other so as to prevent the occurrence of a contact failure.

According to a second aspect and feature of the present invention, in addition to the first feature, the conductor is a bus bar embedded in the switch support.

With the above construction, in addition to the effect provided by the first feature, it is possible to decrease

the number of parts and the number of steps required for the wiring, as compared with the case where the wire harness is used. Further, a possibility of occurrence of a short-circuiting, a breaking of wire, a mis-assembling or the like can be decreased, but also the durability of the bus bar used for a long period can be enhanced, as compared with the wire harness.

According to a third aspect and feature of the present invention, in addition to the second feature, the switch support is a handlebar cover which covers a handlebar in a motorcycle.

With the above construction, in addition to the effect provided by the second feature, it is easy to conduct the mounting of the switch to the handlebar cover in the motorcycle and the wiring of the switch.

According to a fourth aspect and feature of the present invention, in addition to the second feature, the switch support is a bus bar-embedded substrate disposed in a handlebar cover which covers a handlebar in a motorcycle.

With the above construction, in addition to the effect provided by the second feature, it is easy to conduct the mounting of the switch to the handlebar cover in the motorcycle and the wiring of the switch, but also it is easy to produce the handlebar cover, leading to a reduced cost.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Figs. 1 to 7 illustrate a first embodiment of the present invention, wherein

- Fig.1 is an exploded perspective view taken from the front of a rear handlebar cover in a motorcycle;
 Fig.2 is an enlarged view taken in the direction of an arrow 2 in Fig.1;
 Fig.3 is a sectional view taken along a line 3-3 in Fig.2;
 Fig.4 is a sectional view taken along a line 4-4 in Fig.3;
 Fig.5 is a sectional view taken along a line 5-5 in Fig.4;
 Fig.6 is an exploded perspective view of a starter switch;
 Fig.7 is a diagram for explaining a wiring provided by bus bars; and
 Fig.8 is an exploded perspective view taken from the front of a rear handlebar cover in a motorcycle according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

The present invention will now be described by way of embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A first embodiment of the present invention will be first described with reference to Figs. 1 to 7.

In Fig.1, reference character 1 is a rear handlebar

cover made of a synthetic resin for covering a rear portion of a handlebar of a motorcycle. The handlebar cover 1 has a notch 11 which is defined at a right end thereof as viewed from a rider and through which a right half of the handlebar is passed, a notch 12 which is defined at a left end thereof and through which a left half of the handlebar 1 is passed, and a notch 1₃ which is a lower end thereof and through which a steering shaft is passed. A junction box 2 is integrally formed at a central portion of the rear handlebar cover 1 to protrude a forwards of a vehicle body, and a meter unit 3 is mounted to the junction box 2 from the rearward of the vehicle body. The meter unit 3 is comprised of a meter body 4 including a print board having electronic parts such as IC and a liquid crystal display mounted therein, a meter indicating plate 5 and a meter lens 6. A pair of left and right turn-signal bulbs 7, 7 and a pair of left and right illuminating bulbs 8, 8 are mounted in the meter body 4.

Three connectors 9, 10 and 11 are mounted in a front surface of the junction box 2. A connector 13 of a main harness 12 connected to a battery or a starter motor mounted on the vehicle body is coupled to the connector 9. A connector 15 of a front handlebar cover harness 14 connected to a head light or winker lamp in a front handlebar cover mounted to the front surface of the rear handlebar cover 1 is coupled to the connector 10. A winker relay 16 is coupled to the connector 11.

A starter switch Ss is mounted in an opening 1₄ defined in a right portion of the rear handlebar cover 1. A first bus bar embedding substrate 17 is projectingly provided in a band-like shape on an inner surface of the rear handlebar cover 1 to connect the opening 1₄ in the starter switch Ss and the junction box 2 to each other. Three openings 1₅, 1₆ and 1₇ for mounting of a dimmer switch Sd, a winker switch Sw and a horn switch Sh are defined in a left portion of the rear handlebar cover 1. A second bus bar embedding substrate 18 is projectingly provided on the inner surface of the rear handlebar cover 1 to surround the three openings 1₅, 1₆ and 1₇. Further, a third bus bar embedding substrate 19 is projectingly provided on the inner surface of the rear handlebar cover 1 to connect the second bus bar embedding substrate 18 and the junction box 2. A plurality of bus bars which will be described hereinafter are embedded in each of the bus bar embedding substrates 17, 18 and 19. The starter switch Ss, the dimmer switch Sd, the winker switch Sw and the horn switch Sh are connected to the inside of the junction box 2 through these bus bars.

The structures of the starter switch Ss and the bus bars will be described below with reference to Figs.2 to 6.

The starter switch Ss includes a switch housing 21 which opens at its upper and front surfaces. A contact holder 22 is fitted in an opening in the upper surface of the switch housing 21 and fixed by bringing projections 22₁, 22₁ provided on a side of the contact holder 22 into engagement in locking bores 21₁, 21₁ in the switch

housing 21. A switch lever 23 is fitted into an opening in the front surface of the switch housing 21 and swingably supported by bringing a pair of upper and lower pins 23₁, 23₁ projectingly provided at one end of the switch lever 23 into engagement with the switch housing 21 and the contact holder 22, so that the switch lever 23 can be swung about the pins 23₁, 23₁.

A pair of stationary contacts 24 and 25 made by bending a metal plate are fitted into a pair of contact support portions 22₂ and 22₃ formed in the contact holder 22. A portion of a lower surface of each of the stationary contacts 24 and 25 is covered with each of plate-like insulators 26, 26, with contact portions 24₁ and 25₁ of the stationary contacts 24 and 25 being exposed in turned-down states at locations adjoining the insulators 26, 26. A movable contact 28 biased upwards by a spring 27 is vertically slidably carried on an upper surface of the switch lever 23. The movable contact 28 is slideable over the insulators 26, 26 and the contact portions 24₁ and 25₁. A pin 30 biased forwards by a spring 29 protrudes for advancing and retreating movements from a back of the switch lever 23, so that a tip end of the pin 30 resiliently abuts against the inner surface of the switch housing 21. The resilient force of the spring 29 acts to push back the other end of the switch lever 23.

Therefore, when the other end of the switch lever 23 is urged in order to turn ON the starter switch Ss, the movable contact 28 mounted on the switch lever 23 is moved from on the insulators 26, 26 onto the pair of contact portions 24₁ and 25₁ of the stationary contacts 24 and 25 to allow the pair of contact portions 24₁ and 25₁ to conduct. When the urging of the other end of the switch lever 23 is released, the switch lever 23 is automatically restored to an OFF position by the resilient force of the spring 29.

Two bus bars 31 and 32 made of a band-like metal plate are embedded in the first bus bar embedding substrate 17 (see Fig.1). The bus bars 31 and 32 are incorporated in the rear handlebar cover 1 when the rear handlebar cover 1 is produced by an injection molding. Terminals 31₁ and 32₁ formed at one ends of the bus bars 31 and 32 are exposed in the vicinity of the opening 1₄ in the rear handlebar cover 1. Terminals 24₂ and 25₂ having a resilience and formed by folding the stationary contacts 24 and 25 of the starter switch Ss abut against the terminals 31₁ and 32₁.

When the starter switch Ss is inserted into the opening 1₄ in the rear handlebar cover 1, two locking claws 21₂, 21₂ formed on the switch housing 21 are engaged with edges of the openings 1₄, whereby the starter switch Ss is fixed to the rear handlebar cover 1 and at the same time, the connection of the starter switch Ss and the bus bars 31 and 32 is automatically completed. Moreover, a reliable electric conduction is ensured by the resilience of the terminals 24₂ and 25₂. In this way, means such as a bolt, a connector, a soldering and the like is not used for fixing and wiring of the starter switch Ss, and hence, it is possible to reduced the number of

parts and the number of assembling steps.

Each of the dimmer switch Sd, the winker switch Sw and the horn switch Sh also is mounted to the rear handlebar cover 1 in a structure similar to that of the starter switch Ss. A plurality of bus bars for connecting each of the dimmer switch Sd, the winker switch Sw and the horn switch Sh to the junction box 2 are also embedded in each of the second and third bus bar embedding substrates 18 and 19. More specifically, as can be seen from Fig.7, the two bus bars 31 and 32 extending from the starter switch Ss, three bus bars 33, 34 and 35 extending from the dimmer switch Sd, three bus bars 36, 37 and 38 extending from the winker switch Sw and two bus bars 39 and 40 extending from the horn switch Sh are connected to the meter body 4, the main harness 12 and the front handlebar harness 14 in the junction box 2.

In the above manner, the wiring to the electric parts including the starter switch Ss, the dimmer switch Sd, the winker switch Sw and the horn switch Sh mounted to the rear handlebar cover 1 of the motorcycle is performed by the bus bars 31 to 40 embedded in the rear handlebar cover 1. Therefore, as compared with the case where the conventional wire harnesses are used, it is possible not only to substantially reduce the numbers of parts and steps required for the wiring, but also to decrease the possibility of occurrence of a short-circuiting, breaking, mis-assembling and the like. Moreover, it is possible to enhance the durability of the bus bars used for a long period, as compared with the wire harnesses. Further, since the junction box 2 is mounted on the mounting portion for the meter unit 3 located at the central section of the rear handlebar cover 1, and the bus bars 31 to 40 are disposed radiately about the junction box 2, it is possible to suppress the entire length of the bus bars 31 to 40 to the minimum, while avoiding the mutual interference of the bus bars 31 to 40.

A second embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to Fig.8. In the second embodiment shown in Fig.8, the same reference characters as those in the first embodiment are affixed to members, portions or components corresponding to those in the first embodiment.

The second embodiment includes a bus bar embedding substrate 41 made of a synthetic resin and locked and fixed with its four locking recesses 41₅ locked in four locking claws 1₉ projectingly provided on an inner surface of a rear handlebar cover 1. Nine bus bars 31 to 40 (only bus bars are shown) are integrally embedded in the bus bar embedding substrate 41. The bus bar embedding substrate 41 includes four openings 41₁, 41₂, 41₃ and 41₄ corresponding to the four openings 1₄, 1₅, 1₆ and 1₇ in the rear handlebar cover 1. The starter switch Ss, the dimmer switch Sd, the winker switch Sw and the horn switch Sh are passed through the openings 1₄, 1₅, 1₆ and 1₇ in the rear handlebar cover 1 and locked in the openings 41₁, 41₂, 41₃ and 41₄ in the bus bar embedding substrate 41, where the switches Ss, Sd, Sw

and Sh are connected by the bus bars 31 to 40 in a structure similar to that in the first embodiment.

Further, the meter unit 3 fitted in the opening 18 defined at the center of the rear handlebar cover 1 and 5 fixed by two locking claws 1₁₀, 1₁₀ is coupled to the bus bar embedding substrate 41 through a connector 42 mounted on a back of the meter unit 3. The connector 13 of the main harness 12, the connector 15 of the front handlebar cover 14 and the winker relay 16 are coupled to three connectors 9, 10 and 11 provided on the bus bar embedding substrate 41.

Thus, in addition to the operational effect of the first embodiment, the second embodiment can provide an operational effect which will be described below. Since 15

the bus bars 31 to 40 are embedded in the bus bar embedding substrate 41 mounted to the rear handlebar cover 1, rather than being embedded directly in the rear handlebar cover 1, it is possible to simplify the structure of a die for producing the rear handlebar cover 1 by an 20 injection molding to reduce the cost.

Although the embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail, it will be understood that the present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiments, and various modifications in design may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention defined in claims.

For example, the conductor may be formed of a usual wire harness in place of being formed each of the bus bars 31 to 40. In this case, it is necessary to provided 30

the switch support with a terminal to which the end of the wire harness is connected, in place of each of the terminals 31₁, 32₁ of the bus bars 31 to 40. In addition, the terminals 24₂ and 25₂ of the stationary contacts 24 and 25 have the resilience in the embodiments, but the 35 terminals 31₁ and 32₁ of the bus bars 31 to 40 may be provided with a resilience. The locking claws 21₂, 21₂ for fixing the switch housing 21 to the rear handlebar cover 1 are provided on the switch housing 21 in the 40 embodiments, but the locking claws may be provided on the rear handlebar cover 1. Further, the present invention is applicable to a switch used in any application.

Claims

- 45 1. A switch mounting structure in which a switch is mounted on a switch support and a terminal of the switch is electrically connected to a terminal of a conductor mounted on the switch support, wherein a switch housing is inserted into an opening defined in said switch support and locked by a locking claw, and the terminal of said switch exposed to an outer surface of said switch housing is put into resilient abutment against the terminal of said conductor exposed to said opening.
- 50 2. A switch mounting structure according to claim 1, wherein said conductor is a bus bar embedded in
- 55

said switch support.

3. A switch mounting structure according to claim 2,
wherein said switch support is a handlebar cover
which covers a handlebar in a motorcycle. 5
4. A switch mounting structure according to claim 2,
wherein said switch support is a bus bar-embedded
substrate disposed in a handlebar cover which cov-
ers a handlebar in a motorcycle. 10

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FIG.1

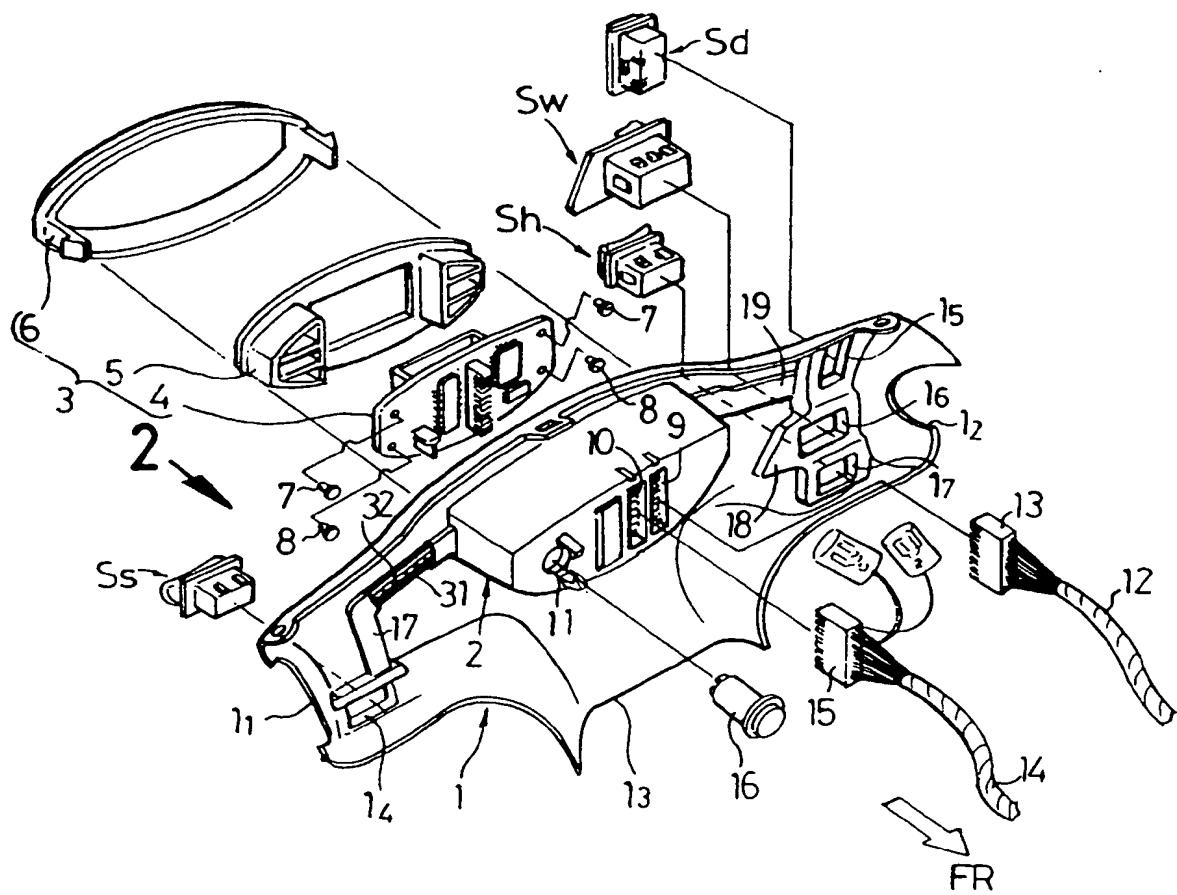


FIG.2

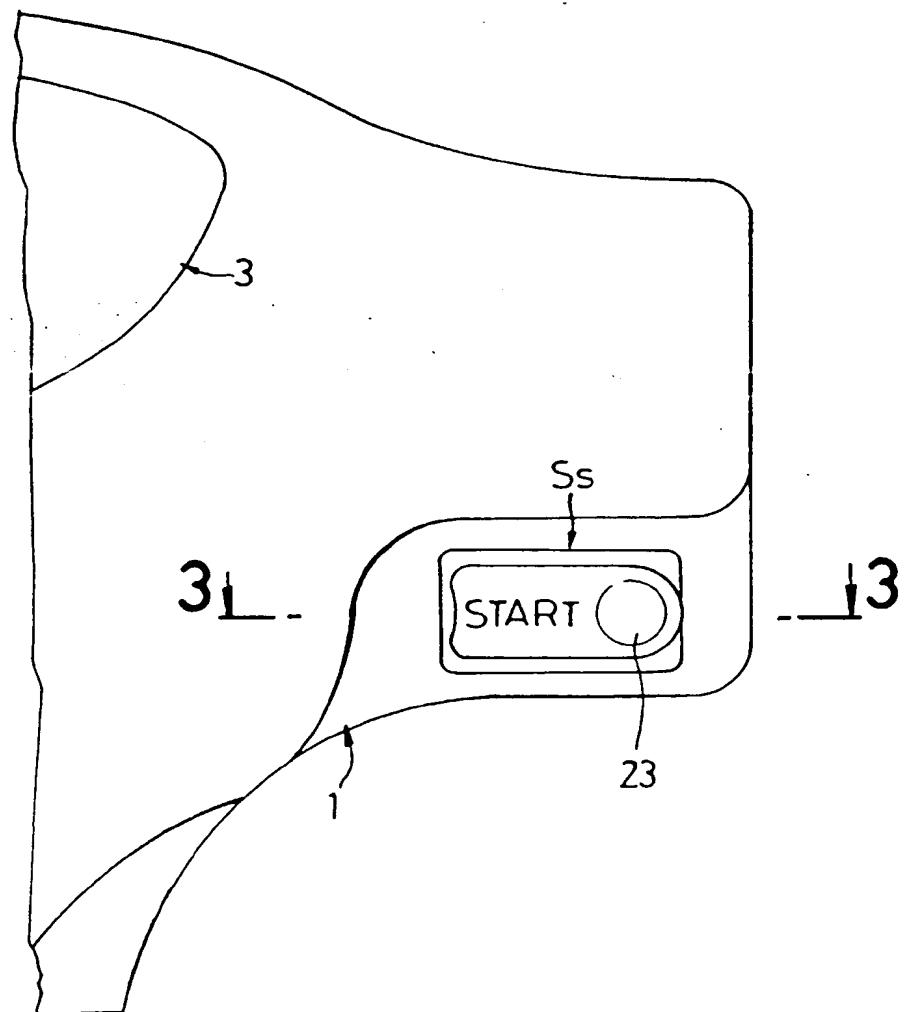


FIG.3

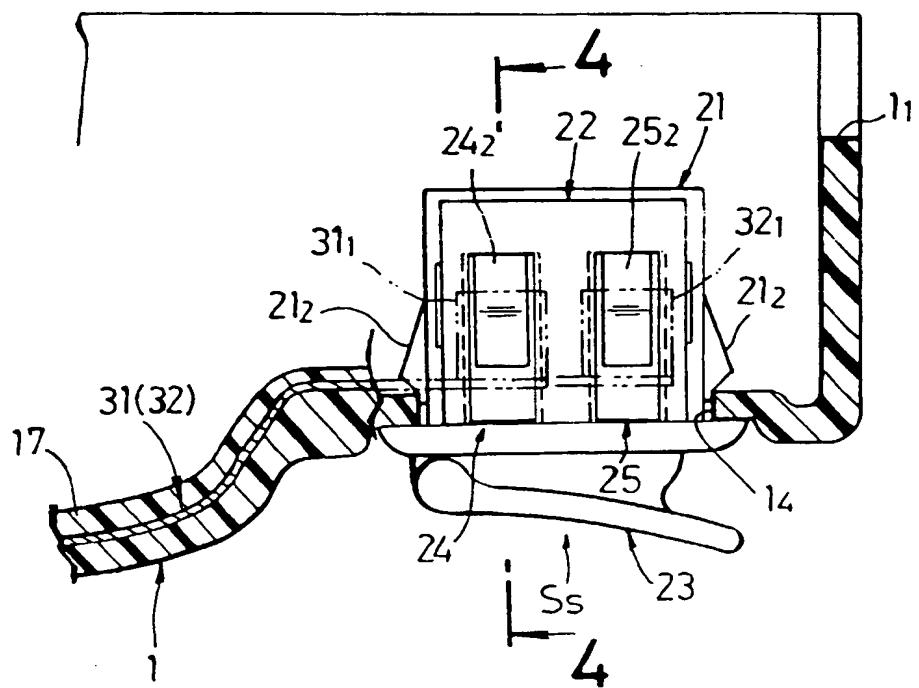


FIG.4

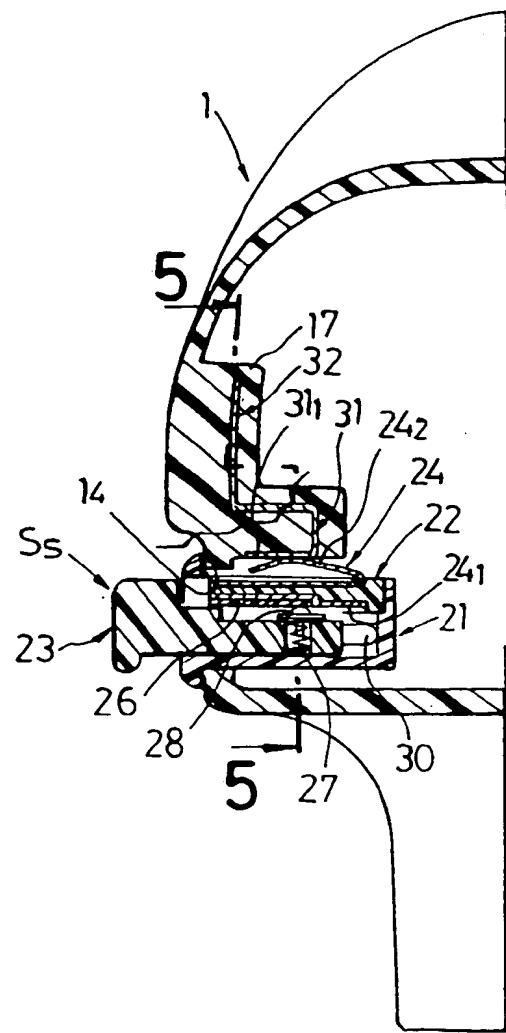


FIG.5

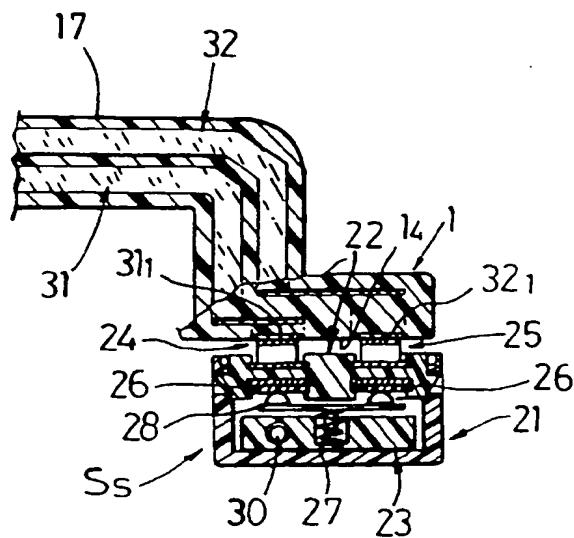


FIG.6

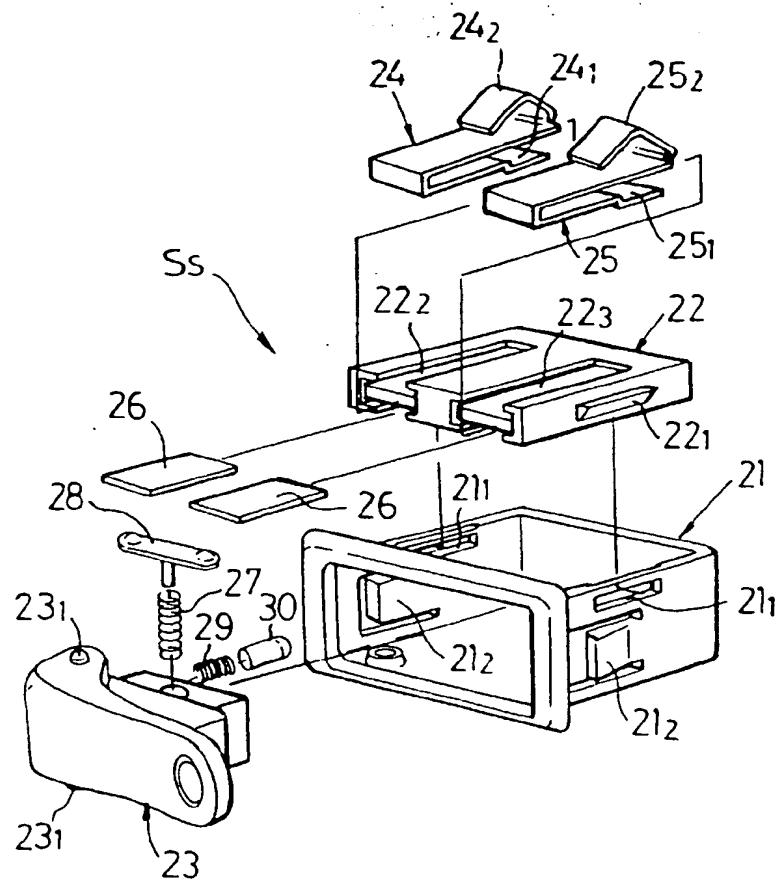


FIG.7

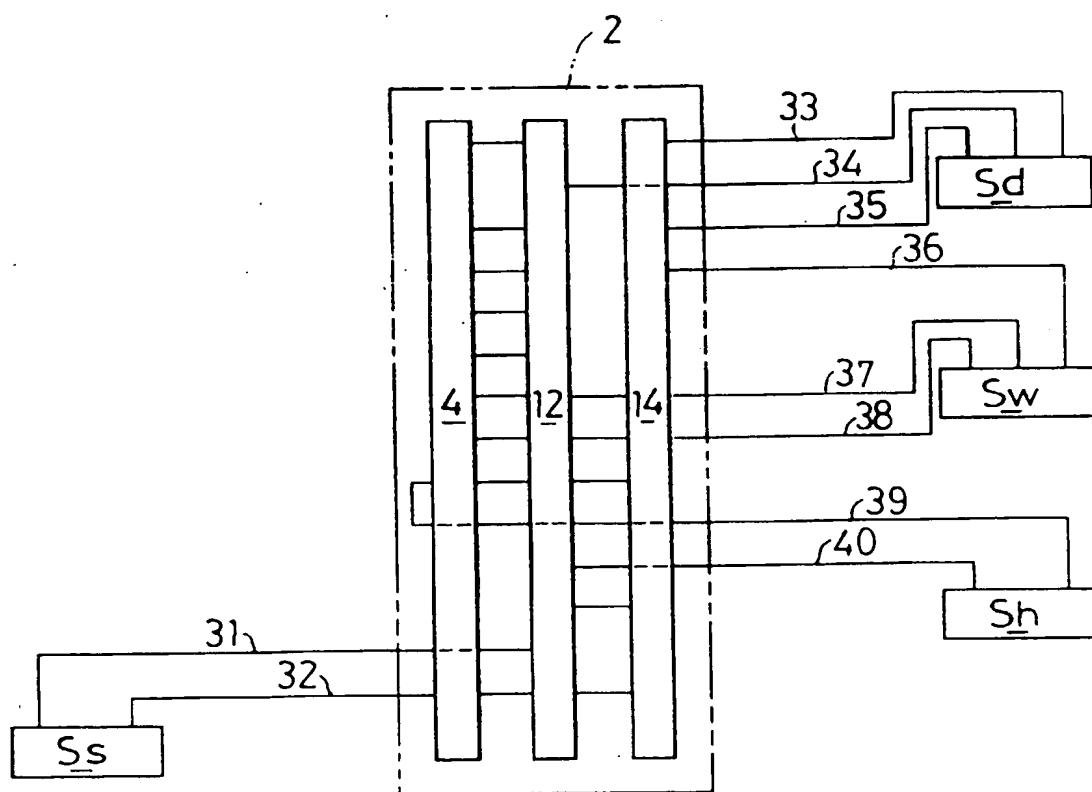
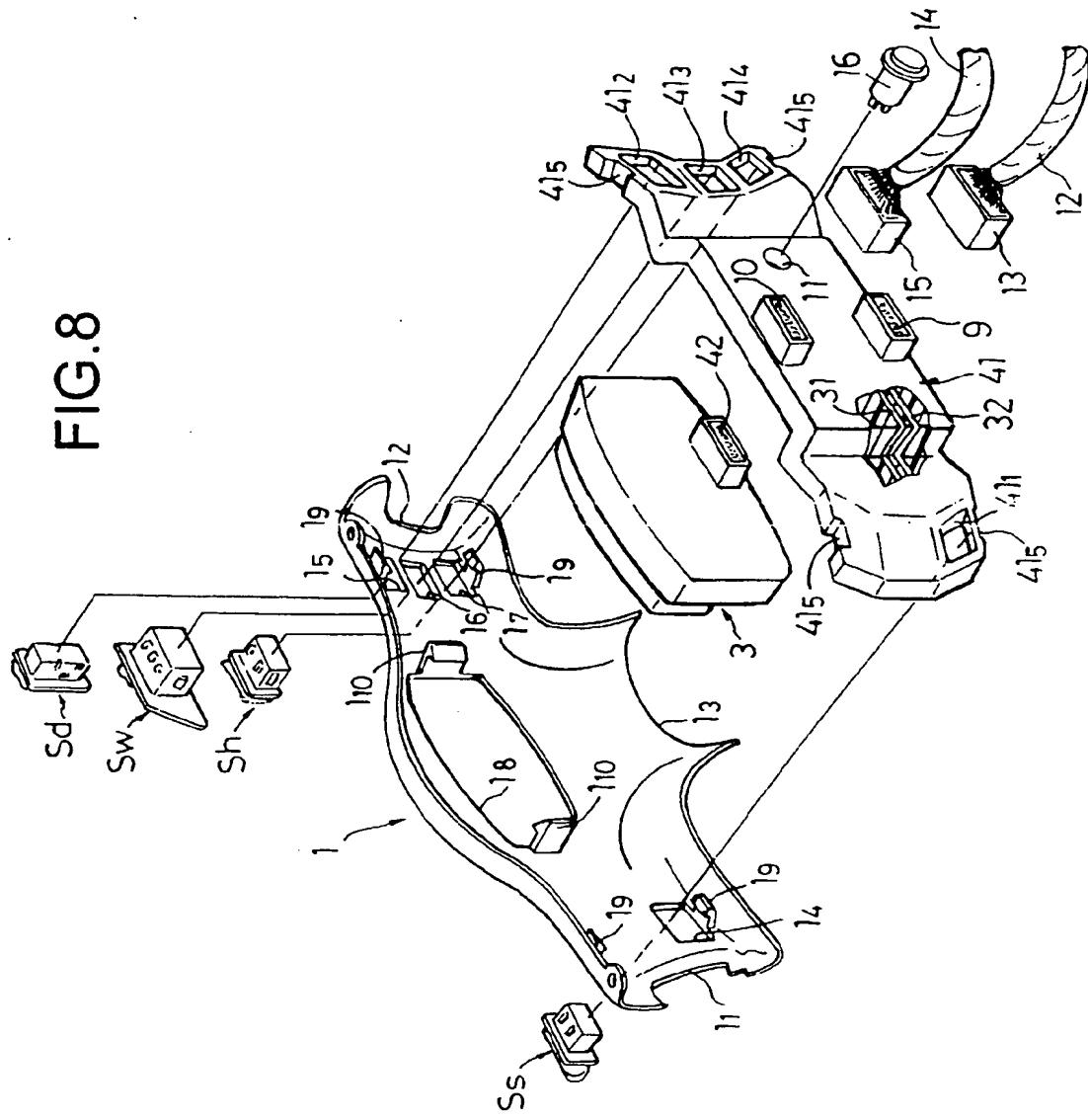


FIG.8



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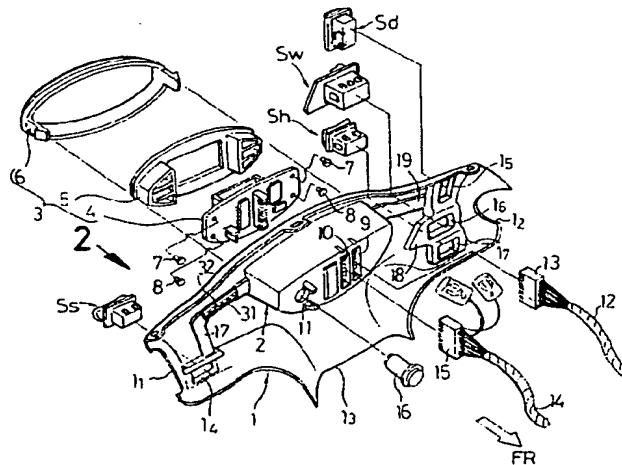
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(54) Switch mounting structure

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abutment against a terminal 31₂ of a bus bar 31 exposed to the opening 14 in the rear handlebar cover 1, thereby automatically completing the connection of the starter switch Ss and the bus bar 31 to each other. Thus, it is possible to simply and reliably perform the operation of mounting the starter switch Ss to the rear handlebar cover 1 and the operation of electrically connecting the starter switch Ss to the bus bar 31.

FIG. 1



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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 3862

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
Y	US 4 710 599 A (MOTODATE SHOJI ET AL) 1 December 1987 (1987-12-01) * column 3, line 52 - column 11, line 60; figures *	1	B60R16/00 H01H1/58 H02B1/048 B62K11/14
Y	US 5 200 884 A (OHASHI SHIGEO) 6 April 1993 (1993-04-06) * column 2, line 40 - column 3, line 39; figures 1-7 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B60R H02B B62K H01H
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 17 May 2000	Examiner Areal Calama, A-A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the Invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
<small>EPO FORM 169/03 02 (PVC011)</small> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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EP 97 30 3862

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